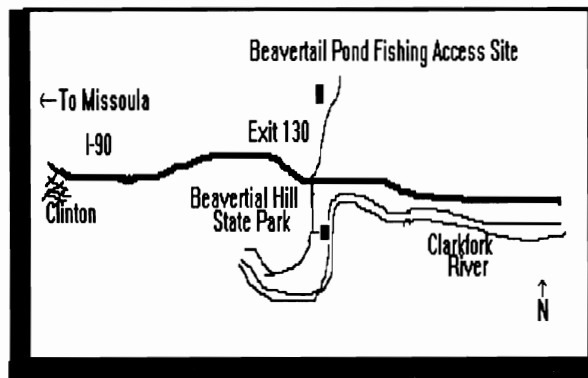


How to Get There

From Missoula, travel east on Interstate 90 about 26 miles to Exit #130. Turn right onto the county road and drive .25 mile to the park entrance.



Special thanks to Montana State Parks and Wildlife Interpretive Association for their help in funding this project.

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks receives federal funds and prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, age, national origin, or handicap. For information or concerns regarding discrimination, contact the Personnel Office, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 1420 E. Sixth Ave, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701, (406)444-2535, or The Montana Human Rights Commission, 1236 Sixth Ave., Helena, MT 59620, 1-800-542-0807.



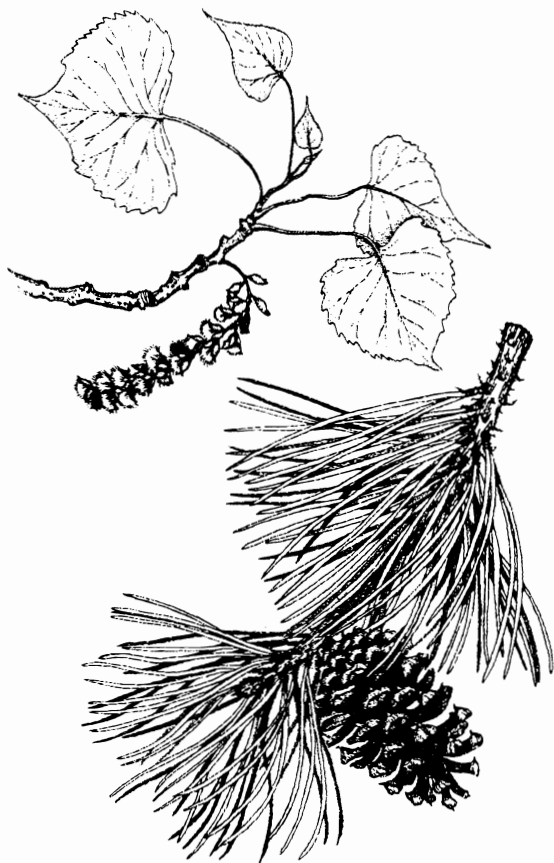
**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

Region 2 Office
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804 (406)542-5500

BEAVERTAIL HILL



STATE PARK



Welcome to Beavertail Hill State Park

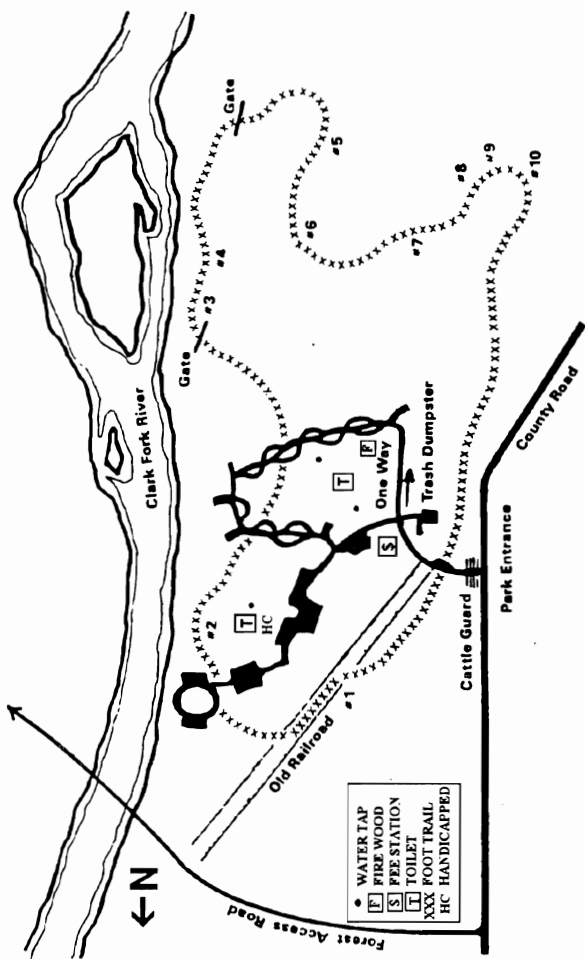
Administered by Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, Beavertail Hill State Park is located 26 miles east of Missoula. The park was named for the hill to the west, which looked like a giant beaver at rest until construction of the interstate cut the tail section in half. The 65 acre park offers 28 campsites, a 1 mile disabled accessible nature trail, fishing and boating access, and a half mile of Clark Fork River frontage. Open May 1 through September 30, the park offers recreational and educational opportunities for everyone.

Camping

The 28 campsites at Beavertail Hill State Park are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Each campsite has a picnic table, fire grate, and a place to park a recreational vehicle or pitch a tent. The campground closes for the off-season between September 30 thru May 1 each year. A comfort station with restrooms and drinking water sources are centrally located. Campers must self-register at the entrance gate fee station. Please display your registration stub on the post provided at the front of your campsite.

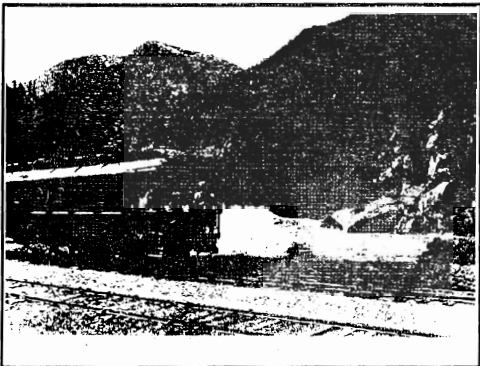
Day-Use

This state park also provides day-use access. Day-use activities include fishing, horse-shoes, picnicking, and use of the self-guided nature trail. Visitors who have the Annual State Park Passport Decal (available at all FWP offices, some state parks, and selected agents) are entitled to free day-use of the park. Visitors without the State Park Passport must self-register at the entrance gate fee station.



Beavertail Hill: Witness to the *Old Milwaukee* Era

The abandoned railbed to the north of Beavertail Hill State Park once carried the tracks of the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad. In its heyday, the railroad known as the "Old Milwaukee" operated over ten thousand miles of routes in a dozen states. This unique rail line managed to play many roles at one time. To some, it was a speedway for mail and passenger trains on the Chicago-Milwaukee-Minneapolis route. To the farmers of the northern prairie and the loggers of the western forests, the Milwaukee was a "granger," or a network of branch lines that carried raw materials to the marketplace. At one time, the company was the only railroad with a main line running from Chicago to the Pacific Northwest. The Milwaukee road had many unique aspects. In addition

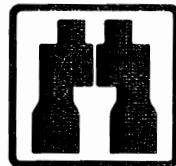


to the usual right of way roadbeds, tracks, and communications power lines, the Milwaukee sported large brick

power substations. Electrification of the Milwaukee set an industry standard. Unlike urban streetcar lines, which used electric traction for smoke abatement reasons, the Milwaukee converted for long-range savings in operating costs. The distinctive engines reached to the powerlines with tall, folding pantographs, and bore powerful names like "Thunderhawk." The abandonment of the western lines in 1980 was accompanied by regret and speculation about the factors that toppled a vital member of many Montana communities. Brick depots, electrical substations, and picturesque tunnels remain as witnesses to the passage of the bold Milwaukee Road.

Watchable Wildlife Opportunities Abound!

Another benefit offered by Beavertail Hill State Park lies in the many opportunities to view wildlife. Species spotted around the park include moose, white-tailed deer, and many bird species, such as nighthawks and great horned owls. The nature trail provides great access to many important areas within the park. Early morning and late evening are good times to look for animal activity. There are some important tips to remember:



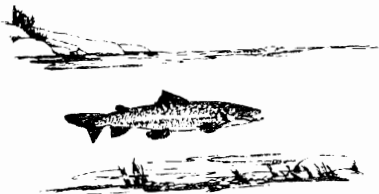
- * Fade into the woodwork
- * Let the animals be themselves
- * Stick to the sidelines
- * Use your fine senses
- * Be easy to be with
- * Think like an animal



The water and lands in and around the park serve as feeding, breeding, and rearing areas for many birds and other animals. Due to the sensitivity of the many animals you may see in this area, please watch from a distance that is comfortably safe for you and the wildlife.

Fishing

The waters of the Clark Fork River contain rainbow and brown trout, but other coldwater species, such as the mountain whitefish, can also be found. Required fishing licenses are available at any Montana



Regulations

To enhance your recreational experience and to aid us in protecting your state park, please observe the following rules:

- ◆ *Pets are allowed throughout the park; however, they must be kept on a leash at all times.*
- ◆ *Campfires are only permitted in established fire grates. Please don't leave fires unattended.*
- ◆ *Please display your day-use receipt on the dashboard of your vehicle, and your camping permit on the campsite number post.*
- ◆ *Motorized vehicles are restricted to roadways and parking areas. Please observe the 5 m.p.h. speedlimit.*
- ◆ *For everyone's safety, discharging of firearms and fireworks is not permitted.*
- ◆ *Camping is limited to a maximum of 14 days. Vehicles cannot be left unattended for more than 48 hours.*
- ◆ *All group activities of thirty or more people must obtain a special recreation permit.*

Nature Trail Showcases Dynamic Riparian Zone

Beavertail Hill State Park's self-guided nature trail points out many of the natural features that can be observed around the park. A detailed brochure describes the features for each numbered station along the trail. Brochures can be found at each road junction so that visitors can start at any point on the trail. Beavertail Hill State Park sits within a riparian zone, or an area whose habitats are closely associated with water features. Riparian zones are often the most ecologically productive spaces in a landscape. These areas also tend to be the most delicate. As you walk, notice how the plant community changes the further you get from the present river channel. The river bank and newly silted gravel bars provide vital seedbeds for regeneration of black cottonwood trees and colonizing willow species. The areas further from the riverbank support aging cottonwoods which are being succeeded by dry-land species such as ponderosa pine, douglas fir, and snowberry. The mature cottonwoods tell us where the river had to have been at the time of their germination! As the course of the river changed, upland plant species colonized the area - thus the mixed composition of the current stand. Watch for signs of the river's old (and not so old!) side channels that support diverse plant communities due to their unique hydrology.

**THANK YOU FOR VISITING BEAVERTAIL
HILL STATE PARK! IF YOU HAVE ANY
QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL US AT
(406) 542-5500**